MEMORANDUM

TO:

Telecommunications Coordinators

FROM:

Frank Cavallaro, Manager C.

Bureau of Communications and Computer Services

DATE:

July 11, 2001

SUBJECT:

Public Payphones - Increase in Per Call Cost

The Department of Central Management Services (CMS) has received notification from SBS Communication Inc. that due to increased operating costs and declining usage of public payphones, the cost of local payphone calls will increase to \$0.50. The price increase will be phased in over the next few months in the regions served by SBC subsidiaries Southwestern Bell, Ameritech, Pacific Bell, Nevada Bell, and SNET.

Here in Illinois, Ameritech is eliminating the per-minute charge currently in effect for local payphone calls. The new \$.50 charge on Ameritech payphones will provide the caller with unlimited local minutes of use. Payphone calls to 9-1-1 and toll free numbers will continue to be completed at no charge.

Beginning the week of July 9, 2001, Ameritech will be dispatching technicians to all state facilities where payphones are located. The conversion of all payphones to the new \$0.50 rate will be completed by September 2001. While this increase does directly impact the telecommunications services within your facility, CMS wanted to advise you of the change should any personnel within your agency inquire about the increase or the Ameritech technicians on site.